AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-25.   (canceled)

26.   (currently amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code

embodied therein, said computer readable program code configured to:

obtain a first business process data from at least one first trading

participant, said business process data comprising a set of transaction messages

having a first data format in accordance with a first standard protocol for

conducting business transactions;

process said business process data at a process management platform

accessible via an interconnection fabric to manage the flow of said transaction

messages and monitor said transaction messages;

generate a second business process data using a second data format in

accordance with a second standard protocol for conducting said business

transactions; and

transmit said second business process data from said process management

platform to at least one second trading participant.

27.   (original) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said

computer readable program code configured to obtain said business process data

executes at a process gateway.

28.   (original) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said

process gateway interfaces with at least one legacy system at said at least one

first trading participant and said at least one second trading participant.

29.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein

said process management platform broadcasts said first business process data to

a plurality of trading participants.

30.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 26 further

comprising:

computer readable program code configured to modify said first business

process data to conform said first business process data to a uniform format.

31.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein

said processing further comprises:

archiving said first business process data in a storage medium.

32.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 31 further

comprising:

computer readable program code configured to provide said archived first

business process data to an entity for non-repudiation purposes.

33.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein

said first business process data comprises at least one partner interface process.

34.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein

said first business process data comprises technical information.

35.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein

said first business process data comprises item acquisition data.

36.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein

said first business process data comprises service acquisition data.

37.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein

said at least one trading participant comprises an entity utilizing said first

business process data.

38.   (original) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said entity comprises a purchaser.

39.   (original) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said entity comprises a supplier.

40.   (original) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said entity comprises a distributor.

41.   (original) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said entity comprises a manufacturer.

42.   (original) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said process management platform comprises a plurality of distributed systems.

43.   (original) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein said process management platform comprises a business process interface associated with said at least one trading participant and said at least one second interface.

44.   (original) The computer program product of claim 37 further comprising:

computer readable program code configured to provide said at least one

first trading participant and at least one second trading participant access to a

business process interface.

45.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 37 44

wherein said business process interface is provided via a web browser.

46.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 37 44

wherein said business process interface facilitates the transmission of data

comprising at least a portion of said business process data.

47.   (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 37 44

wherein said business process interface facilitates the formatting of data

comprising at least a portion of said business process data.

48.   (canceled)

49.   (canceled)

50.   (canceled)

51.　(original)　A computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code for managing a plurality of business processes, said computer readable program code configured to:

obtain a plurality of business processes from a plurality of first entities wherein said plurality of business processes comprises a sequence of messages linked by a predefined workflow and exchanged over a predefined period of time;

manage said plurality of business processes at a process management platform;

forwarding said plurality of business processes from said process management platform to at least one of a plurality of second entities.

52.　(original)　The computer program product of claim 51 wherein said computer readable code configured to manage said plurality of business processes at said process management platform further comprises computer readable program code configured to:

determine if each of said plurality business processes conforms to a predefined format and format said plurality of business processes so that each of said plurality of business processes conforms to said predefined format when said plurality of business processes does not conform to said predefined format;

determine whether to archive said plurality business processes and archive said plurality of business process if said determination to archive said business processes is affirmative.

53.   (canceled)

54.   (new) The computer program product of claim 26, further comprising computer program code configured to validate said first business process data.

55.   (new) The computer program product of claim 26, further comprising computer program code configured to provide automatic translation of said second business process data based on protocol identifiers in one or more respective trading participant profiles.

56.   (new) The computer program product of claim 26, further comprising computer program code configured to process a general request in said first business process data, to determine one or more trading participants capable of satisfying said general request, and to route said outbound business process data to said one or more trading participants.

57.   (new) The computer program product of claim 26, further comprising computer program code configured to provide automated negotiation services between a plurality of trading participants.

58.   (new) The computer program product of claim 26, further comprising computer program code configured to evaluate and analyze said first business process data and said second business process data to provide business trend information to a plurality of trading participants.

59.   (new) The computer program product of claim 26, further comprising computer program code configured to emulate a virtual trading participant for evaluating an interface between said process management platform and one or more trading participants.

60.   (new) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for facilitating business processes via a process management platform, wherein said computer readable program code comprises:

computer program code configured to receive inbound business process data from a plurality of trading participants;

computer program code configured to transmit outbound business process data to said plurality of trading participants;

computer program code configured to validate said inbound business process data;

computer program code configured to provide automatic translation of said inbound business process data and said outbound business process data between a plurality of supported business data protocols based on protocol identifiers in one or more respective trading participant profiles;

computer program code configured to process a general request in said inbound business process data, to determine a subset of said trading participants capable of satisfying said general request, and to route said outbound business process data to said subset of trading participants;

computer program code configured to record said inbound business process data and said outbound business process data in a transaction non-repudiation archive;

computer program code configured to provide automated negotiation services between said plurality of trading participants;

computer program code configured to evaluate and analyze said inbound business process data and said outbound business process data to provide business trend information to said plurality of trading participants; and

computer program code configured to emulate a trading participant for

evaluating an interface between said process management platform and one or

more of said plurality of trading participants.